

the

GLOXINIAN

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Vol. 52, No. 4

Fourth Quarter 2002



Rhytidophyllum exsertum

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

A non-profit membership corporation chartered by the State of Missouri

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Gesneriad Hybridizers Association — *CrossWords*, 3 issues, \$8 (\$9 outside U.S.A.). Send to Vincent Parsons, 18300 SW Shaw St., Apt #7, Aloha, OR 97007-1357 <gesneriaeae@yahoo.com>.
Newsletter Editors — *Newsviews*, free to editors; \$6 subscription to others. Contact Leslie Milde, 373 Main St., P.O. Box 14, Fremont, NH 03044 <meribush@aol.com>

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COVER

Rhytidophyllum exsertum
Best in Show at the 2002
Convention Flower Show
(photo by Bob Stewart)

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in honor of John Boggan; and by Ben Paternoster in lieu of speaker's fee
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President's Message

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4201 West 99th St., Overland Park, KS 66207

Greetings Gesneriad Growers,

I have just returned from the fabulous AGGS Convention in Morristown, New Jersey. I am sure others who attended agree that the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter of AGGS left no stone unturned in putting on an outstanding convention. Be sure to read the convention articles in this issue and then plan to join us in 2003 in Sacramento, California. Many first-time attendees told me they had such a wonderful experience they are already planning to attend next year. The flower show was spectacular with a huge increase in the number of entries and exhibitors. I am amazed and pleased to see so many people travel considerable distances with award-winning plants. Excellent lectures were given by speakers from a range of disciplines—scientific, collecting, commercial, and serious hobbyist—providing something for every interest. The tours gave us a sampling of the many lovely gardens and historical sites in the surrounding area.

At the plant sale I acquired a number of new varieties on my wish list as well as some lost favorites. I always return home from the convention inspired and reinvigorated to improve my growing practices. I plan to follow the many tips I learned from speakers and fellow conventioneers. The Gesneriad plant family is so diverse, with new species and hybrids entering cultivation all the time, it is a constant source of new enjoyment for the seasoned connoisseurs as well as those who enjoy growing old favorites and those who are just beginning their journey in the Gesneriad world. I am also excited to hear how many growers are becoming more experimental and testing the limits of growing increasing numbers of Gesneriads in their outdoor gardens.

The AGGS Board of Directors elected some new officers and appointed some new Committee Chairpersons so please see the report by Peter Shalit on page 6 for these changes. Due to the widespread use of electronic communication, the Round Robin Committee has been discontinued at the recommendation of Suzie Larouche, the most recent chair. Jon Dixon has agreed to oversee the Gesneriad Message Corner on the AGGS website to ensure all questions posted to the forums receive responses. He will not necessarily be writing the answers but will be recruiting others to reply. I encourage all of you to help with this. There are many people who visit our website because they have just acquired a new Gesneriad and are looking for cultural information. If you have grown the plant someone is asking about, don't hesitate to share what works for you. Remember when you were new and wanted help with your plants? This information exchange could be the beginning of a new Gesneriad friendship.

I am very proud to announce that the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society has received an "Award of Merit to a Plant Society for Excellence in Horticulture" from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. The award was based on our excellent publications and educational materials, as well as the overall work of our society in supporting research, collection and growing of Gesneriads. Keep up the good work everyone!



Convention Board Review 2002

Peter Shalit, Recording Secretary <ps83@cornell.edu>
1312 East Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98122-2519

AGGS' 2002 Annual Convention was held in historic Morristown, New Jersey. Your AGGS Board, led by president Susan Grose, met on July 2, 5, and 7 during the Convention. In addition, the annual General Membership meeting was held on Friday, July 5.

The Board elected the following AGGS Officers for a term ending in 2004: Pat Richards, Second Vice President, and Fay Wagman, Corresponding Secretary. Treasurer, Helen M. Bortvedt, was elected for another term.

The Board approved three changes in personnel among the Committee Chairs. Doris Brownlie is our new Properties Chair, replacing Arleen Dewell. Leslie Milde is taking over as Newsletters Chair, replacing Carol Ann Bonner. Larry Skog replaces Miriam Denham at the helm of the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund.

At the Membership Meeting, the Slate of Directors presented by the Nominating Committee was elected for the three-year term ending in 2005: Helen M. Bortvedt, Tom Bruning, Carolyn Conlin-Lane, JoAnne Martinez, Pat Richards, Carolyn Ripp, and Vivian Scheans. Next year's Nominating Committee will consist of Bill Price (Chair), Connie Leifeste, and JoAnne Martinez.

Also at the Membership Meeting, Molly Schneider presented well-deserved Awards of Appreciation to three AGGS members and promoters of gesneriads: Virginie F. Elbert, co-author of "The Miracle Houseplants", Mauro Peixoto, gesneriad collector from Brazil, and Leong Tuck Lock, gesneriad collector from Malaysia. All will receive Life Memberships in AGGS. An article about these awardees appears on page 10.

AGGS has two new chapters whose charters were presented at the Convention General Membership Meeting: The African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York, and The Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society in Tucson. Arleen Dewell, our Chapters and Affiliates Chair, is also working with other AGGS members who are exploring the formation of chapters in their areas.

Helen Freidberg, AGGS Conventions Chair, announced that next year's Convention will be held in Sacramento, California, from July 1-6, 2003.

On the financial front, the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund continues to grow, and over \$4,000 was contributed by this year's auctions. Helen M. Bortvedt, Treasurer, helped the Board arrive at a balanced budget for the next year. Membership fees currently do not cover the costs of printing and mailing *THE GLOXINIAN*, which continue to increase. The Board voted to propose a dues increase to \$25 annually for an Individual Membership. This will be voted on by the Membership at next year's Convention.

Seed Fund

Bob and Carol Connelly <Bob_Connelly@email.msn.com>
2391 Phillips Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2450

We're just back from a wonderful time at the 2002 AGGS Convention in Morristown, New Jersey. It was very hot the first few days, but once the heat wave broke, it was quite pleasant. The Frelinghuysen Arboretum was beautiful, and the host chapter went all out to make this one of the best conventions ever! It is always great to meet our Seed Fund purchasers and be able to associate the names with the actual people. We will probably most remember this convention for having met the three 2002 Awards of Appreciation recipients: Virginie Elbert ("The Miracle Houseplants"), Mauro Peixoto of Brazil, and Leong Tuck Lock of Malaysia—three wonderful and talented people.

As for the Seed Fund, convention sales went very well with a boost from the exclusive convention sales of some Brazilian *Sinningia* seed from Mauro Peixoto, plants of which were seen in his slide lecture. Our apologies to our Seed Fund customers who were not at the convention, but there was not enough seed to be able to add to the Seed Fund list. Hopefully the talented growers who purchased these seeds will donate additional seed of these species to the Fund in the future.

We would like to thank the most recent contributors to the Seed Fund for their generosity: the Smithsonian Institution, Marlene Beam, Helen Bortvedt, Mary Bozoian, Maggie Cherubini, Patrick Duffy, Jack Evans, Maryjane Evans, Ruth Goeke, R. David Harley, Richard Holzman, Frank Kahn, Leong Tuck Lock, Sherman Paur, Mauro Peixoto, Vivian Schean, Carol Schreck, Peter Shalit, Steve Shank, Yumiko Sugiyama, David and M.J. Tyler, Catherine Walbridge, Michael Wenzel and Ruth Zavitz.

ADDITIONS:

- *Chirita balansae* USBRG 98-082 (F,R)
 - *Columnea microcalyx* GRF 94110 (B)
 - *Sinningia speciosa* hybrids – dark pink mini mix (E,R)
 - *Sinningia* 'Premier Pink' × self (F,P)
 - *Streptocarpus* 'Cape Beauties' × self (R)
 - denotes LIMITED quantities

DELETIONS:

<i>Chirita pumila</i> USBRG 2000-18	<i>Saintpaulia</i> hybrid mix
<i>Chirita speciosa</i> (dark leaf)	<i>Sinningia hirsuta</i>
<i>Corallodiscus lanuginosus</i> ACE2109	<i>Sinningia</i> 'Laura' × self
<i>Parakohleria</i> sp. GRF9778	<i>Sinningia</i> 'Rosebells' × self
<i>Parakohleria</i> sp. GRF97126	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Athena' × self
<i>Saintpaulia intermedia</i>	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Karen' × self

Seed Packets — \$1.50 each

Please

- Make checks payable to the AGGS Seed Fund in U.S. funds
 - To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is Mastercard or Visa (\$6.00 minimum)
 - Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope (non-U.S. orders may include International Postal Coupons or have the postage added to their credit card bill)
 - List alternate choices
 - Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

The new Convention 2002 Flower Show slide program will include these awarded entries among many others –



Aeschynanthus hildebrandii 'Topaz' entered by Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses was awarded Runner-up to Best in Show (photo by Bob Stewart)



Pentadenia orientandina grown by Olive Ma Robinson was awarded Best Gesneriad Grown by a Novice (photo by Bob Stewart)

AGGS Slide Programs

Dee Stewart <dee.stewart@110.net>
1 No Name Road, Stow MA 01775-1604

I'm very excited about several projects currently in the works for our Slide Library. First, we'll have a program on the 2002 Convention Flower Show coming out this fall. This show, hosted by the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter, was the largest and perhaps most diverse show we've had in recent memory. For those who didn't make it to Morristown, here's your chance to see the show after all. If you did make it to Morristown, I'm sure you'd love to see these plants again. Contact me for the specific date when it will be available.

For release further in the future, Dale Martens is working on a *Smithiantha* program for us. So many great new *Smithiantha* hybrids have been introduced in the past few years that I'm sure this will be a breathtaking program.

Last, but by no means least, we'll be experimenting with educational programs in PowerPoint and other formats for display from a personal computer. Mauro Peixoto has graciously allowed us to place the program he presented at this year's convention in our library. This program is in computer format rather than 35mm slides, so this will be our first offering in this new format.

The programs in the AGGS Slide Library are a great, inexpensive way to bring the expertise of some of our most knowledgeable members to your local chapter. You can also see recently introduced species and hybrids that may not have made it to your area yet. Get hints on how to grow the plants by learning about their native habitats and how other people grow them. I'll be happy to answer any questions about specific programs.

The following programs are currently available:

- Introduction to Gesneriads (56 slides)
- Kansas City: Convention 2001 (80 slides)
- Tampa: Convention 2000 (79 slides)
- Achimenes (59 slides)
- Chiritas (60 slides)
- The Companion Genera: *Nematanthus* and *Codonanthe* (77 slides)
- Kohlerias (72 slides)
- Sinningias (80 slides)
- *Streptocarpus* Species (75 slides)
- *Streptocarpus* Hybrids (79 slides)

Programs can be reserved by mail to Dee Stewart, 1 No Name Road, Stow MA 01775-1604 or email to <dee.stewart@110.net>. Specify the program to be reserved and the date the program is required. Since new programs are very popular, it is helpful if you provide as much lead time as possible, provide alternate dates, or alternate programs that would be acceptable. Please specify the address the program is to be mailed to and a contact phone number. Program rental of \$20.00 U.S. payable to AGGS must be received before the program can be shipped. Your request will be promptly acknowledged and programs will be shipped to arrive at least one week in advance of your reserved date. Older programs are shipped in slide sleeves and must be placed in a carousel or other container for viewing. Newer programs are shipped in a carousel. Programs must be returned within 5 days of your reservation date via Priority Mail with delivery confirmation in the U.S. or the equivalent postal category from outside the U.S.

The Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Auction

Paul Susi <captaur@optonline.net>
6 Upper Lane, Centerport, NY 11721-1125

This was the first "hands-on" auction for me and it was a challenge and a lot of fun—working on the auction certainly kept me busy and out of trouble during convention! I'd like to thank Doris Carson, previous Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Chair, for the great job she did during her tenure. This year we tried out a few new things, including having a printed list of items for each live auction, and we hope they were to your liking. We know that we need to speed up the settlement for auction items and welcome your suggestions.

We were lucky in having two outstanding gesneriad explorers with us, Leong Tuck Lock and Mauro Peixoto, who contributed many packets of special seed. Toshijiro Okuto donated several plants of *Petrocosmea barbata* and also *Briggsia speciosa*. Bill Price was generous not only with cuttings (*Sinningia piresiana* and *Sinningia mauroana* among them) but also with his blue-ribbon *×Achimenantha* 'Golden Jubilee' (Dale Martens' hybrid commemorating AGGS' 50th Anniversary) and his bonsai of *Chirita tamiana*. Dale Martens' collection of her hybrids was augmented by the surprise addition of her award-winning *×Achimenantha* 'Texas Blue Bayou'. Two other members donated their show entries: Robert Hall (*Nematanthus* 'Castanet') and Gussie Farrice (the indoor birdhouse from her artistic entry). Donations from members who were not able to attend convention were especially appreciated: Patrick Worley, Betty Tapping, M. J. Tyler, among others.

The auction couldn't have gone as smoothly as it did without the input and hard work of the committee members who received items, wrote tags and did a great job auctioneering: Clay Anderson, Doris Brownlie, Tom Bruning, Doris Carson, Bob Clark, Carolyn Conlin-Lane, Francisco Correa, Dariane Joshlin, Suzie Larouche, Bill Price, Michael Riley, Molly Schneider and Daphne Yaremko.

And a big thank you to the bidders, who helped add \$4,432 to the Fund, and to the 48 members and friends (listed below) who donated 228 items to the auction.

Clay Anderson	John Farina	Mauro Peixoto	Wallace Wells
John Boggan	Gussie Farrice	Bill Price	Patrick Worley
Carol Ann Bonner	Jill Fischer	Michael Riley	Cheekwood Botanical Gardens
Helen Bortvedt	Robert Hall	Carolyn Rippes	Estate of Jessie Crisafulli
Mary Bozoian	David Harley	Molly Schneider	Heart of America Chapter
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Carol Callaghan	Jeanne Katzenstein	Lee Stradley	
Norma & Norman Chenkin	Leong Tuck Lock	Paul Susi	
Karyn Cichocki	Alison Lovell	Joe Svitak	
Carolyn Conlin-Lane	Ruth Jo McCoy	Betty Tapping	
Barbara Elkin	Dale Martens	Eleanor Taylor	
Maryjane Evans	Leslie Milde	M. J. Tyler	
	Toshijiro Okuto	Betty & Jerry Vriens	

Flamingo Fest 2002

Jon Dixon <jond@value.net>
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Pink, everywhere pink. The year was 2002 and we were in the midst of an army of pink flamingos—the exotic bird that "inhabits" the northwest corner of the State of New Jersey centered around the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, home of our host chapter whose members have adopted this bird as their symbol, mascot, and best friend. If years past had memorable themes like "Y2K in Tampa Bay", "50th Anniversary", etc., none had the impact of the little pink bird with the long legs.

It all started on Tuesday when the early birds were feted to a Flamingoian Fest unlike any other. The host chapter opening social was well attended with colorful celebrants dressed in the most amazing costumes, such as Bill Price as a streptocarpus seed pod, Bob Clark with pink hair, Robert Hall, a vision in pink, and Dale Martens with her pink well-lit hat. The party was complete with its own mini-show, a little spoof of flower show artistic classes with prizes for Best Use of Feathers, Pinkest Design, and Worst in Show. The event definitely got the convention off in high spirits. After the party, many stayed up to the wee hours visiting in the hotel lobby.



Bill Price, Dale Martens, and Bob Clark in their creative flamingo attire

This year the convention adopted a novel schedule which was well received by the participants. After Wednesday's schedule of meetings and judging school events, we enjoyed an opening lecture by Mauro Peixoto who filled us with visions of new and exciting plants from Brazil. That evening the annual meeting of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association tantalized us with more photos from members and an exciting program presented by Bob Counsell on Growing Streptocarpus in England. We learned that Strops have really gained popularity there with many people growing and hybridizing beautiful new varieties. We look forward to the possibility of a new international chapter.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter Members



Quentin Schlieder



Maryjane & John Evans



Clarence & Ellen Eich



Nancy Leck



Frank Kahn



Other chapter members and friends enjoying the Awards Banquet



Penny Wezel



Eleanor & Bob Taylor,
Carol Ann Burrell



Jan Murasko



Jeanne Katzenstein, Jill Fischer, Karyn Cichocki, Maryjane Evans

Thursday is tour day, always has been and was again this year. But the clever hosts scheduled in a very nice and ample continental breakfast along with a visit to the botanical garden at Willowwood where a beautiful display of gesneriads was found in their greenhouse. Afterwards we were transported in distance and back in time to the historic New Jersey village of Waterloo, a well-preserved town of the 19th century. Being the 4th of July, the village stores were closed and we had the place all to ourselves. It was hot that day, and many of us took refuge in the cool dining hall where we enjoyed an ample box lunch and even more enjoyable conversation.

We returned to the hotel early in the afternoon for the hard work of show entries, last minute grooming, and plant sale and auction set up. I took a nap. In the evening, a new and special event, the opening of the Seed Fund sale. With special seeds of new *Sinningia* species from Mauro, the table was stampeded. Luckily there were plenty of seeds to purchase, and we all came away happy. Following this we enjoyed another lecture, this time by Dr. Laurence Skog on the genus *Gesneria*. He has studied this genus throughout his career and was thus able to present a fascinating overview of these showy tropical plants. His program so intrigued me that I bid high and got his autographed technical monograph on *Gesneria* in the auction the next day.



Speaker Larry Skog
from the Smithsonian
Institution



Tom Talpey, former
AGGS President,
with his wife Betty



Speaker Paul Sorano
from Lyndon Lyon
Greenhouses

After the program, conventioneers lined up well in advance waiting eagerly for the highlight (for many of us) of this and all past conventions—the grand and breathtaking opening of the plant sale. At the appointed hour we solemnly filed in, making last-minute plans for which table to seek out and run to. I haphazardly found myself at the Kohleria table, then the Chirita hybrids table, followed by the Chirita species, the Gesnerias, the Episcias. Then I remembered what I had come for!—that little new *Petrocosmea* species. Alas, no *P. begoniifolia* for me, or so I thought. There were beautiful plants of *P. formosa*, *P. forrestii*, and even a little plant of the very choice *P. minor*, all species only recently brought into cultivation. But I had all of these. At the sale I decided I needed to restrain myself and only filled up one box; but I had plants standing on other plants in that box. At the checkout, with some last-minute additions, I found my plants actually filled two good-sized boxes. It was undoubtedly the greatest and grandest of all gesneriad plant sales in the history of modern civilization, which says a lot considering how great the previous conventions' sales have been. On the next day, they restocked, and guess what, I got my little *P. begoniifolia*—plus another big



"The greatest and grandest of all gesneriad plant sales"

box of items I had missed on opening night. It says a lot that I was able to find so many new and choice plants when I already grow so many hundreds, if not thousands, of Gesneriads.

It was quite late when I got to bed, and very early when I was awakened by my roommate who had risen early for judging. I slept in. I would love to judge or clerk someday, but I need my rest. My morning was relaxed, while the judges pondered. After revisiting the plant sale, I revisited the seed sales getting packets to grow on for next year's convention. I missed the Internet meeting as I frantically tried to pare down my selections of must-have seeds to a reasonable number.

At lunch we enjoyed more good conversations followed by our Annual Meeting, a tradition dating back some fifty years. It was nice to enjoy the proceedings from the sidelines, as President Susan Grose presided with such flair. In the afternoon, the flower show opened while the Board of Directors met. Once again I was missing my chance to see the show, engrossed in the affairs of the society. After our productive meeting we enjoyed another great program by masterful grower and greenhouse nursery owner, Paul Sorano. It was wonderful to learn how he has continued and expanded on the traditions of his famous and creative grandfather, Lyndon Lyon. Now, I understand why his sale plants are so spectacularly grown. I also got many great ideas for improving my own culture.

Friday evening is our annual dress-up event, and for me, the annual donning of the tie and wearing of the blazer. An elegant cocktail hour in the lobby was followed with a feast in the banquet hall. I dined with an international group representing Japan, Canada, and the U.S. We had more wonderful conversation as Carol came by and presented me with a little *Nautilocalyx* I had been searching for and thought extinct to cultivation, *N. aeneus* 'Roezl's Bronze'. Leaves are now in Japan, Canada, and both coasts of the U.S. After dinner we enjoyed phase one of the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Auction where I got my *Gesneria* book as well as a box of coffee mugs from the '88 Convention in New Jersey. Mugs now are in Japan, Malaysia and my kitchen in California.

In past years, the banquet sumptuously concluded the Friday activities, but in recent years the now weary hosts allow us the great privilege of viewing the flower show. With awards having just been handed out, we got to see the plants so honored. This year the show set a record for most entries (340) and most exhibitors (68). It was thrilling to see so many new, exciting, and well-grown plants, and also to see the awards presented to so many different exhibitors both locally and around the world. Robert Hall once again achieved high honors as his *Rhytidophyllum exsertum* received Best In Show. He was further honored with Sweepstakes in Horticulture, no mean feat considering the competition.

As I reviewed my notes for this article I was struck with the long list of special plants—too many to describe here. We saw new and unusual species such as Paul Kroll's *Pearcea* species from Ecuador and the spectacular small new *Petrocosmea* species grown by Maryjane Evans, G25KC00, tentatively named *P. menglingensis*. I remember plants of the new *Chirita speciosa* with large spotted leaves in purple or light green, a lovely *Pentadenia orientandina* festooned with large pale pink berries and little yellow flowers, the pale greenish flowers of *Sinningia lindleyi*, and the wonderful foliage of *Chirita*



Jon Dixon enjoying a quiet time at the flower show

sclerophylla. New hybrids were well represented, including Streps from Dale Martens, many new variegated Streps from various growers, and John Boggan's new little *Chirita* hybrid, *C. gemella* × *C. sp.* USBRG 98-083. Another star of the show, and a mystery, was the new yellow-flowered *Episcia* 'Suomi', originally found by Soili Damm and exhibited in the show by Ben Paternoster. Tuck Lock thought it must be a *cuprea* hybrid based on the shape of the flower, and I concurred. Others thought it could be a mutation of one of the pink-flowered hybrids of the *Wilsonii* group.

Saturday started again before dawn as I was awakened by my roommate getting an early start on the photography session. I slept in. After breakfast, I casually visited the plant sale and found more plants. Then we had one last program, another real treat. Leong Tuck Lock of Malaysia gave us a tour of the new and unusual Gesneriads native to his homeland.

At lunch we enjoyed the second half of the auction, where new and really rare Gesneriads went on the block. New species of Asian Gesneriads vied with new hybrids from Patrick Worley, Dale Martens and others. After lunch, the plant sale opened for one last chance to get the last remaining items. There were still plenty of plants and some really good items I had missed before. But now they were half price. I bought another box-full.

With the show and sale wrapped up and taken down, we boarded buses for the final convention activities. We started with a cruise down the Hudson River on an elegant ship with a cool summer breeze and magnificent views of the skylines, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Our conversations were briefly interrupted as we silently and solemnly passed Battery Park near the site of the World Trade Center. We returned to port and continued on to the beautiful Frelinghuysen Arboretum specially decorated in pink with even more of the host chapter's flamingo friends. We strolled the estate-like grounds, enjoyed a display of antique botanical prints and books, ate dinner, and relaxed with more leisurely conversations.

As the sun set dimming our view of plants and nature, I sat outdoors in the cool evening with Ingrid Lindskog recounting our week, reminiscing about plants grown and new plants to grow. A little firefly came by and entertained us. We sat there, in the dark, well sated from a good meal as well as from the memory of a veritable weeklong banquet of plants, special events, great conversations, and new friendships.



Relaxing aboard the Spirit of the Hudson cruise ship



Enjoying the gardens at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum

Black and white convention photos courtesy of Maryjane & John Evans,
Jeanne Katzenstein, Julie Mavity-Hudson, and Paul Susi.

2002 Convention Flower Show Awards

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8404 W. Harrison Ct., Fredericksburg, VA 22407-1905

Thanks to the generosity of AGGS members and chapters, I was able to present the following awards to recognize the beautiful plants and entries by the many exhibitors at the 2002 Convention Flower Show held in Morristown, New Jersey:

SPECIAL AWARDS

SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE – to Robert Hall for 5 blue and 3 red ribbons, a cash award from the New England Chapter in memory of Jessie Crisafulli

RUNNER-UP TO SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE – to Paul Kroll for 5 blue and 0 red ribbons, a cash award from the Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society, and a gift certificate from Pat's Pets

SWEEPSTAKES IN ARTISTIC – to Paul Kroll for 5 blue and 2 red ribbons, a cash award from Bill Price

RUNNER-UP TO SWEEPSTAKES IN ARTISTIC – to Karyn Cichocki for 5 blue and 0 red ribbons, a cash award from Lee Linett in memory of Jessie Crisafulli

BEST IN SHOW – to Robert Hall for *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*, a plaque from the Long Island Chapter in honor of its 40th Anniversary, and a gift certificate from Pat's Pets

SECOND BEST IN SHOW – to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses for *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii 'Topaz'*, a cash award from the National Capital Area Chapter in honor of its 30th anniversary and its founder Lee Linett

BEST ARTISTIC – to Karyn Cichocki for her kinetic design "Goldfinch", a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society

BEST IN THE ARTS – to John Evans for his color print of *Sinningia guttata*, a cash award from Hans & Everdina Inpijn



Horticultural Sweepstakes winner
Robert Hall with his Best in Show
plant of *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*



Artistic Sweepstakes winner Paul Kroll
with one of his blue-ribbon
arrangements "Truck Gardens"

- BEST NEW WORLD TUBEROUS GESNERIAD IN FLOWER – to Leslie Brothers for *Chrysanthemis pulchella*, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society
- BEST NEW WORLD RHIZOMATOUS GESNERIAD IN FLOWER – to Paul Kroll for *Phinæa* sp. USBRG 96-336, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society
- BEST NEW WORLD FIBROUS-ROOTED GESNERIAD IN FLOWER – to Jeanne Katzenstein for *Nematanthus wetsteini*, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society
- BEST OLD WORLD GESNERIAD IN FLOWER – to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses for *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii* 'Topaz', a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society
- BEST GESNERIAD GROWN FOR ORNAMENTAL QUALITIES OTHER THAN FLOWERS – to Maryjane Evans for *Columnea 'Goldheart'*, a cash award from the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society
- BEST NEW GESNERIAD – to Maryjane Evans for *Sinningia 'Georgia Sunset'* (F2 selection) × *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Redcoat', a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in honor of all convention workers
- BEST LESSER-KNOWN GESNERIAD – to Robert Hall for *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in honor of all flower show exhibitors
- BEST COLLECTION OF GESNERIADS – to Heidi Dillenbeck for her *Streptocarpus* Collection, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in honor of all plant sales contributors
- BEST GESNERIAD GROWN BY A NOVICE – to Olive Ma Robinson for *Pentadenia orientandina*, a cash award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in honor of all convention volunteers
- BEST ARRANGEMENT OF FRESH CUT AND/OR GROWING MATERIAL – to Carol Callaghan for "Cranberry Bogs", a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in honor of Lavia Berland
- BEST ARRANGEMENT OF FRESH CUT MATERIAL – to Karyn Cichocki, for "Shore to Please", a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Stanley Schwartz "always the teacher"
- BEST ARRANGEMENT OF GROWING GESNERIADS – to Paul Kroll for "Truck Gardens", a cash award from the Delta Gesneriad and AV Society
- BEST GROWING MATERIAL PLANTING – to Paul Kroll for his curved terrarium, a cash award from the Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York Chapter
- BEST PHOTOGRAPHY – to John Evans for his color print of *Sinningia guttata*, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in memory of Josi Stefaniak, Toronto Gesneriad Society founding member
- BEST CRAFT – to Marcia Kilpatrick for her Judges' Handbook Cover, a cash award from Arleen Dewell, in honor of all the judges, clerks, and convention flower show committee
- BEST COMMERCIAL EXHIBIT – to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, a cash award from Lauray of Salisbury
- BEST EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT – to Jeanne Katzenstein for her Educational Display on Medicinal Gesneriads, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Stanley Schwartz
- BEST COLUMNEA – to Maryjane Evans for *Columnea 'Goldheart'*, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Miriam Goldberg
- BEST EPISCIA – to Arleen Dewell for *Episcia 'Silverdust'* a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Phyllis Rosenbluth
- BEST KOHLERIA – to Judy Padalino for *Kohleria 'Manchu'*, a cash award from the Long Island Chapter in memory of Stanley Schwartz, a friend of the Long Island Chapter
- BEST MINIATURE SINNINGIA – to Gary Dunlap for *Sinningia 'Amizade'* a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Marty and Zelda Mines
- BEST STREPTOCARPUS – to Heidi Dillenbeck for *Streptocarpus 'Gator's Tail'*, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in honor of Irwin Rosenblum
- BEST LESSER-KNOWN GESNERIAD – to Robert Hall for *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*, a cash award from the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
- BEST NEW WORLD SPECIES – to Robert Hall for *Rhytidophyllum exsertum*, a cash award from Maryjane Evans in honor of Jeanne Katzenstein for 10 years as Editor of THE GLOXINIAN
- BEST NEW WORLD SPECIES WITH MEDICINAL PROPERTIES – to Robert Hall for *Columnea schiedeana*, a cash award from Jeanne Katzenstein in honor of Hans Wiehler
- BEST BRAZILIAN SPECIES – to Robert Hall for *Sinningia lindleyi*, a cash award from Jeanne Katzenstein in honor of Mauro Peixoto



Sinningia speciosa Hybrid #2 grown by
Betsy Sherwin (photo by Bob Stewart)



Streptocarpus candidus grown by
Joe Palagonia (photo by Bob Stewart)

Some of the award-winning entries by Frelinghuysen Chapter members attending their first AGGS Convention



Episcia 'Kee Wee'
grown by Frank Kahn
(photo by Bob Stewart)



Sinningia 'Orange Sherbet' grown by
Eleanor Taylor (photo by Bob Stewart)



Chirita Kazu grown by
Judy Padalino (photo by Bob Stewart)



Streptocarpus 'Little Pink Pixie' grown by
Heidi Dillenbeck (photo by Bob Stewart)



Color transparency of *Henckelia atrosanguinea*
entered by Leong Tuck Lock

More award-winning
entries by first-time AGGS
convention attendees



Chirita linearifolia
grown by Linda Neumann
(photo by Carol Ann Bonner)



Streptocarpus 'Good Hope' grown by
Marcia Kilpatrick (photo by Bob Stewart)



Streptocarpus 'Chorus Line' grown by
Lee Stradley (photo by Carol Ann Bonner)

BEST SCENTED GESNERIAD – to Joe Palagonia for *Streptocarpus candidus*, a cash award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Jim Fryer

BEST RECENTLY REGISTERED – to Heidi Dillenbeck for *Streptocarpus 'Gator's Tail'*, a cash award from the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association

Division I – HORTICULTURE – Class Awards

SECTION A – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Tuberous

Class 1 – *Sinningia speciosa* hybrid #2 – to Betsy Sherwin, a cash award from Carol Callaghan

Class 2 – *Sinningia hirsuta* – to Heidi Dillenbeck, a cash award from the Delaware Chapter and the Delaware African Violet Judges rosette

Class 3A – *Sinningia lindleyi* – to Robert Hall, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of all AGGS chapters and affiliates

Class 4 – *Sinningia 'Amizade'* – to Gary Dunlap, a cash award from Nellie Sleeth in honor of MJ Tyler

Class 5 – *Sinningia 'Island Sherbet'* – to Eleanor Taylor, a cash award from the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society in honor of Doreen Hovermale, chapter president

Class 7 – *Chrysothemis pulchella* – to Leslie Brothers, a cash award from the Grow and Study Gesneriad Society

SECTION B – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Rhizomatous

Class 10A – *Kohleria 'Manchu'* – to Judy Padalino, a cash award from Dolly Crowder

Class 10B – *Kohleria 'Marquis de Sade'* – to Gary Dunlap, a cash award from Laura Shannon

Class 12 – *Phinaea* sp. USBRG 96-336 – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society

Class 13 – *×Achimenantha 'Golden Jubilee'* – to Bill Price, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Stanley Schwartz "always the teacher"

SECTION C – New World Gesneriads in Flower – Fibrous-Rooted

Class 14 – *Codonanthe devosiana 'Paula'* – to Gary Gordon, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Larry Skog

Class 15 – *Columnea schiedeana* – to Robert Hall, a cash award from the Heart of America Gesneriad Society

Class 16 – *Episcia 'Suomi'* – to Ben Paternoster, a cash award from the Tennessee Gesneriad Society in memory of Ben Channell

Class 18 – *Nematanthus wettsteinii* – to Jeanne Katzenstein, a cash award from the American Gesneriad Society of San Francisco

SECTION D – Old World Gesneriads in Flower

Class 20 – *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii 'Topaz'* – to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, a cash award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker

Class 21 – *Chirita sclerophylla* – to Robert Hall, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Larry Skog

Class 22 – *Chirita 'Kazu'* – to Judy Padalino, a cash award from the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society in honor of Doreen Hovermale, chapter president

Class 23 – *Petrocosmea forrestii* – to Linda Neumann, a gift certificate from Violet Ventures

Class 24 – *Saintpaulia rupicola* – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Heart of America Gesneriad Society

Class 26 – *Saintpaulia 'Summer Coral'* – to Judy Padalino, a cash award from Norma Chenkin in honor of Maryjane Evans

Class 27 – *Saintpaulia 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle'* – to Donna Coleman, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Stanley Schwartz "always the teacher"

Class 28 – *Saintpaulia 'Honeysuckle Rose'* – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Larry Skog

Class 29 – *Streptocarpus 'Good Hope'* – to Marcia Kilpatrick, a cash award from Marlene Beam in honor of Miriam Denham

Class 30 – *Streptocarpus candidus* – to Joe Palagonia, a cash award from Marlene Beam in memory of Stanley Schwartz

Class 31A – *Streptocarpus 'Gator's Tail'* – to Heidi Dillenbeck, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society

Class 31B – *Streptocarpus 'Samantha'* – to Doris Brownlie, a cash award from the Atlanta Interest Group

Class 31C – *Streptocarpus* 'Chorus Line' – to Lee Stradley, a cash award from Bonita Hutcheson
Class 32 – *Boea hemsleyana* – to Robert Hall, a cash award from Molly Schneider in memory of her mother Loys Marsden

SECTION E – Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Qualities Other Than Flowers

Class 33A – *Chirita sinensis* hybrid – to Doris Brownlie, a cash award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker
Class 33B – *Chirita* species USBRG 98-083 – to Bill Price, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of the exhibitors, judges, clerks, and flower show committee
Class 34 – *Episcia* 'Silverdust' – to Arleen Dewell, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of the exhibitors, judges, clerks, and flower show committee
Class 35 – *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams' – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Arleen Dewell in honor of all AGGS chapters and affiliates
Class 36 – *Petrocosmea forrestii* – to Mary Bozoian, a cash award from Nellie Sleeth in honor of MJ Tyler
Class 37 – *Columnea* 'Goldheart' – to Maryjane Evans, a cash award from the Atlanta Gesneriad Interest Group
Class 38A – *Sinningia reitzii* – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from Susan Grose
Class 38B – *Eucodonia andrieuxii* 'Woolly Morrión' – to Marilyn Allen, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society
Class 38C – ×*Brigandrea calliantha* – to Mary Bozoian, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society
Class 39 – *Smithiantha* 'Sassy Redhead' – to Al Romano, a cash award from the Tennessee Gesneriad Society in memory of Ben Channel

SECTION F – New Gesneriads

Class 41 – *Petrocosmea* species – to Maryjane Evans, a cash award from the Grow and Study Gesneriad Chapter
Class 42A – *Streptocarpus* 'Little Pink Pixie' – to Heidi Dillenbeck, a cash award from Molly Schneider in memory of her mother Loys Marsden
Class 42B – *Streptocarpus* 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Winter Dreams' seedling #4 – to Lee Stradley, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Larry Skog
Class 42C – *Sinningia* 'Georgia Sunset' (F2 selection) × *Sinningia cardinalis* 'Redcoat' – to Maryjane Evans, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of the exhibitors, judges, clerks, and flower show committee
Class 43 – *Chirita* hybrid – to John Boggan, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in honor of the exhibitors, judges, clerks, and flower show committee

SECTION G – Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

Class 44 – *Pearcea* sp. Ecuador – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Fay and Irwin Wagman
Class 45 – *Rhytidophyllum exsertum* – to Robert Hall, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Christian Feuillet

SECTION H – Collections of Gesneriads

Class 46 – *Streptocarpus* Collection – to Heidi Dillenbeck, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Anne Crowley

SECTION I – Gesneriads Grown by a Novice

Class 48 – *Pentadenia orientandina* – to Olive Ma Robinson, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Monte Watler
Class 49 – *Episcia* 'Kee Wee' – to Frank Kahn, a cash award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker

Division II – ARTISTIC – Class Awards

SECTION J – Arrangement of Fresh Cut and/or Growing Material

Class 50 – "Atlantic City" – to Bob Clark, a cash award from Jan Murasko
Class 51 – "Cranberry Bogs" – to Carol Callaghan, a cash award from the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers
Class 52 – "Giant of Industry" – to Bob Clark, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society
Class 53 – "The Wizard of Menlo Park" – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker



Color print of *Sinningia guttata* entered by
John Evans (photo by Dale Martens)



Underwater arrangement "Shore to Please" entered
by Karyn Cichocki (photo by Julie Mavity-Hudson)

More award-winning entries by
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Chapter members



Petrocosmea sp. grown by Maryjane Evans
(photo by Michael Riley)



Straight-sided terrarium entered by Jill Fischer
(photo by Carol Callaghan)

SECTION K – Arrangement of Fresh Cut Plant Material

- Class 54 – "Goldfinch" – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Christian Feuillet
Class 55 – "Shore to Please" – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Christian Feuillet
Class 56 – "Lighthouse" – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society
Class 57 – Challenge Class "Delaware Water Gap" – to Bob Clark, a cash award from Ben Paternoster in memory of Stanley Schwartz "always the teacher"

SECTION L – Arrangement of Growing Material

- Class 58 – "Cape May Diamonds" – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Atlanta Gesneriad Interest Group
Class 59 – "The Pine Barrens" – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Christian Feuillet
Class 60 – "Truck Gardens" – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society

SECTION M – Growing Material in a Planting

- Class 61 – Terrarium (straight-sided) – to Jill Fischer, a cash award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Jessie Crisafulli and in honor of Tony Crisafulli
Class 62 – Terrarium (curved) – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Twin Cities Chapter
Class 63 – Tray Landscape – to Karyn Cichocki, a cash award from Paul Kroll in honor of Monte Waller
Class 64 – Natural Garden – to Paul Kroll, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society
Class 65 – *Chirita linearifolia* (trained) – to Linda Neumann, a cash award from David, Colleen, and Nolan Turley in honor of Christian Feuillet

Division III – THE ARTS – Class Awards

SECTION O – Photography

- Class 68 – Color Transparency of *Henckelia atrosanguinea* – to Leong Tuck Lock, a cash award from the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers in memory of Dale Munger and other deceased members of the 3Gs
Class 69 – Color Print of *Sinningia guttata* – to John Evans, a cash award from the Delaware Chapter
Class 70 – B&W Print of *Ramonda myconi* – to Ron Myhr, a cash award from the Toronto Gesneriad Society

SECTION P – Crafts Representing Gesneriads

- Class 71 – *Streptocarpus 'Michael'* (painting) – to Randy Baron, a cash award from Dale Martens
Class 72 – Judges' Handbook Cover (textile) – to Marcia Kilpatrick, a cash award from Dolly Crowder

Division IV – COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL – Class Awards

SECTION Q – Commercial

- Class 74 – Display of 10 or more plants – to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, a cash award from Laura Shannon

SECTION R – Educational

- Class 75 – Exhibit on Medicinal Gesneriads – to Jeanne Katzenstein, a cash award from Lee Linett in memory of Stanley Schwartz

I appreciate every donor and would like to recognize the awards that did not have qualifying entries: Best Malaysian species from Jeanne Katzenstein in honor of Leong Tuck Lock, and Best Micro-Miniature Sinningia from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Gesneriad Society in memory of Susan Schlieder. This money will be used to fund color photographs in THE GLOXINIAN.

Rhytidophyllum exsertum

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R*hytidophyllum* is a large-growing shrubby genus from the West Indies. It has ten or more species but few are grown as they are usually too large for the light stand and also because they have greenish, inconspicuous flowers—hardly a "must have" on any growers list. However, the species often have very interesting foliage that may be rough and textured or fuzzy. The plants are also more tolerant of a hot and slightly dry environment than are many of the other Gesneriads, making it not too difficult for the apartment grower to have in front of a window. *Rhytidophyllum* is related to *Gesneria*, also a West Indian genus, and intergeneric crosses have been made. (Some botanists consider them one genus.)

I obtained a 2 cm tip cutting of *Rhytidophyllum exsertum* while visiting Scandinavia last year. The cutting had to travel in a small cup of sphagnum moss that had a clear plastic lid and it sat in front of the windows of the hotels in which I stayed. At that time, getting houseplant cuttings into Canada was easy and did not require a phytosanitary certificate. This changed after September 11th with Canada Customs becoming very strict about allowing plant material into the country unless it had been inspected in the country of origin.

At home, the cutting was put into a basic peat/vermiculite/perlite mix and kept just moist and covered for a month. I had taken only a green tip cutting as I suspected that the more woody stems might not root well. It was then slowly "weaned" to grow open in the middle of a two-tube light set up that was on for eight hours a day in a warm environment. Most of my plants grow under two fluorescent tubes that are on for six hours a day, and I have one shelf reserved for *Sinningia* species that have high light intensity requirements. These receive nine hours under four tubes.

Rhytidophyllum exsertum grew slowly, and by rotating it frequently produced a nice upright rosette plant of about 30 cm. I then deep potted it to produce a more pleasing shape. It produced a number of flower stalks, but these did not fully open until a week after the convention. The flowers are about 1 to 1.5 cm long and are of a creamy green colour with light brown speckles on the inner surface of the petals. There is no scent.



Close-up of buds
of *Rhytidophyllum*
exsertum

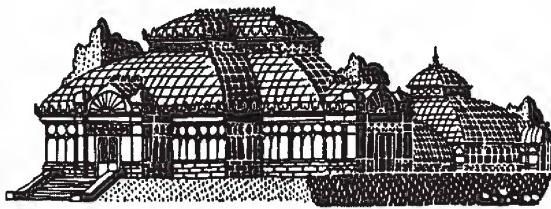
The most interesting aspect of this plant is its leaves. They are a deep green colour and have a coarse, almost quilted texture. The stems, and especially the undersides of the leaves, have downy hairs that are sticky to the touch. Fungus gnats and any small flies that come in from outside are often found dead on the upper surface of the leaves making me wonder if the leaves have insecticidal properties. So coarse are the leaves that any other plants on the light stand that come into contact with them are bruised and sometimes lacerated. A beautiful flowering specimen of *Sinningia guttata* that was destined for the convention had to be left behind because a few of its leaves rubbed against the *Rhytidophyllum* and became badly discoloured.

My plans for the plant are to put it into a larger pot in front of a south window and see how large it will grow. I am attempting to cross it with *Gesneria cuneifolia* 'Quebradillas' to see if this intergeneric cross will result in a medium-sized plant with interesting leaves and more colourful flowers.

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Welcome, Two Newcomers to the AGGS Family

Aleen Dewell <arleendewell@shaw.ca>
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What a hot week we enjoyed at Convention in Morristown! Not only was it hot outside, those hot pink flamingos were fluttering, squawking and preening inside The Headquarters Plaza Hotel, too!—at the opening Flamingo Fest social, at the Silent Auction and Plant Sales Tables and... Holy Flamingo Feathers... at the Flower Show! The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, our amiable and extremely well organized Convention 2002 Host Chapter, provided us with an unforgettable visit to the Garden State. Kudos to Local Convention Chair Quentin Schlieder and his army of hard-working Chapter members. We had a wonderful time helping you celebrate your Silver Anniversary with AGGS—tinged with a heavy dose of pink, of course!

I am tickled pink to welcome two new Chapters to AGGS. The African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York, represented by Paul Kroll, received its Charter at the Membership Luncheon on Friday, July 5th. Their President is Judy Niemira; First VP, Elaine Geiger; Secretary, Michael Kotarski and Treasurer, Dona Doll. The Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society in Tucson also completed its requirements to become a Chapter in May of this year. Their President is Kathleen Autret; First VP, Joan Dixon; Secretary, Deb Weinman and Treasurer, Charles Anderson. Representatives from Arizona were unable to travel to New Jersey, but we look forward to meeting them when Convention moves closer to their home next year—California in 2003. Do you live in Western New York State or the Tucson area? Are you interested in joining either group? You can go to the Chapters link on the AGGS Home Page for information, or check out Page 4 of *THE GLOXINIAN*.

It was a pleasure to get reacquainted with Bob Counsell at Convention this year. He came all the way from Somerset, England, to join in the flamingo madness! Bob tells me that members of the British *Streptocarpus* Society will be meeting in late July to discuss their plans for affiliating with AGGS as a possible new Chapter. I also enjoyed meeting David Harley, Editor of "Gesneriad Insights", the excellent newsletter published by the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society. He contacted me earlier this year on behalf of the African Violet Society in Urbana. Many people there actively grow related Gesneriads, and are keenly interested in affiliating with AGGS. I met Lee Stradley for the first time at the Toronto Gesneriad Society's Silver Anniversary bash in April. Lee is working hard to establish the Vestal African Violet and Gesneriad Society in New York state. Currently they have 14 members and are busy having regular monthly meetings and organizing interesting field trips. They also invite guest speakers to come and give programs. It was great to catch up with Lee again during the Flamingo Fest. At the rate his group is forging ahead, something tells me it won't be long before we are adding one more very active Chapter from the State of New York to our list of 37! Another group on the West Coast is beginning to take root again in San Diego County. Becky Fontes, a recent transplant from Seattle, misses her friends from the Puget Sound Gesneriad Society and is working hard to re-establish a Gesneriad interest group in her new home.

They held their inaugural meeting in March and currently have seven members. If you live in San Diego County and would like to contact Becky, please let me know and I would be happy to put you in touch with her.

Contacts. That's what AGGS is all about. People coming together to share their interest in and experiences with those wonderful, extraordinary Gesneriads. We talk, learn and laugh together, but along the way we cultivate many friendships guaranteed to last a lifetime. Please join in and help us help you stay connected. Become a member of an AGGS Chapter, or better yet, start a new one!



Many of the AGGS Board Members

Sweden — Friends, Food and Flowers

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Judging plants on a competitive level could be considered by some to be an exercise in masochism. Trying to choose a winner from among a whole group of impeccably grown plants is difficult when comparing the varied Gesneriad species and hybrids to some sort of fair standard. However, it can also be a rewarding endeavor with the chance to see and learn about a wide range of plant material, to travel and to meet other plant enthusiasts. It was with that attitude that I decided to take my student judging exams again at the Kansas City Convention last year. My previous active judging status having lapsed during some busy years in school, I was excited to have the chance to be more involved in the Gesneriad world again. You can imagine my delight when I was introduced to the indefatigable Ingrid Lindskog from Sweden and she told me a group of judges was going to Stockholm the following month!

Gesneriasterna, our largest AGGS Chapter with over 400 members, had begun having AGGS judged shows and had invited North American judges to help. I promised myself that if another chance came up, I would make every effort to go. Nine months later the chance came for a group of us to judge the third annual *Gesneriasterna* show and off I went!! Along with Ingrid Lindskog, Show Chair, who came all the way from Umeå near the Arctic Circle, our judging team included Vivian Scheans from Oregon, seasoned judge of the other two Swedish shows; Jeanne Katzenstein from New Jersey, editor of THE GLOXINIAN, present for the first Swedish show and eager for a chance to see another part of the country; Gussie Farrice from Long Island, ready to judge her first international show; and myself.



Judges Gussie Farrice, Vincent Woo, Jeanne Katzenstein, Vivian Scheans

My first view of Stockholm involved the numerous small bridges that characterize this city which is essentially comprised of twenty islands. Our hotel, Anno 1647, was named for the date of its original stone building and was located on a tiny cobblestone alley near a main tube station and several museums. As I had planned to arrive a day earlier than the others, it had been arranged that Anita Åsborg, a *Gesneriasterna* board member, would take me on a walk around the city. She arrived with her two young daughters, Fanny and Frida, and we began the grand tour of Stockholm. We started in *Gamla Stan*, the old quarter of town with its buildings dating back to the 13th century, now a tourist attraction with winding stone alleys and quaint shops.

A sharp clean breeze, offset by the bright sunshine, got my appetite going as we arrived at the ferry to meet Anita's husband, Malte, for supper. We crossed to one of the adjacent islands and walked through a geese-strewn park to a restaurant that has been continuously in operation since 1792. I was served their 1,446,007th order of *plankstek*, veal grilled on an aromatic wooden board. Sated and happy, we trekked to the open-air museum and amusement park of Skansen, where we saw revelers in traditional costume and the huge bonfire in celebration of the spring festival called *Valborgsmässan*. The lighting of the bonfire symbolizes the days when farmers would build large fires to scare away wolves on cold spring nights. Hundreds were gathered for the event, and the yells of appreciation could be heard as the flames reached fifty feet in height. Chilled, but excited, we slipped away to go to my cozy hotel room to exchange cuttings and rhizomes.

The following morning was spent quietly wandering around town as I waited for the rest of the group to arrive. The shops were closed as it was a national holiday. Soon enough, Ingrid and her husband Sven arrived from Umeå followed by Vivian, Jeanne and Gussie from the United States. Over a meal of steaks, potatoes and light beer, it was decided that our next day of sightseeing would include a mixture of shopping, museums and gardens! We began at the Vasa museum, which houses the remains of a reconstructed 17th-century wooden sailing ship of the same name. It sank on its maiden voyage in 1628, and remained there until the 1960's when it was pulled out and rebuilt piece by piece.

Later, while Ingrid and Vivian relaxed, Gussie, Jeanne, Sven and I were off to the Bergianska, to look at the site of last year's show. The itch to see some gesneriads was growing! Despite the magnificent displays of flowering shrubs, we could find only six gesneriads: an unidentified unifoliate *Streptocarpus*, a hybrid Strep, two species of *Aeschynanthus*, and two species of *Saintpaulia*—*S. grotei* and *S. intermedia*. The garden center next door was amazing, and I bought some plastic humidity boxes which I was able to squish into my luggage!

That night we took the train into Tumba, a suburb of Stockholm, where the Åsborg family had invited us to a traditional Swedish smorgasbord. As we waited for Malte to pick us up from the train station, we discovered a florist shop and went in to investigate. Inside were several baskets of an odd *Aeschynanthus* with curly leaves that was labeled 'Scooby Doo'. Robert Hall had brought it back to Canada the previous year. Arriving at the Åsborg home, we were greeted to the sight of a table mounded with tantalizing dishes: three different kinds of herring, devilled eggs with shrimp and caviar, smoked salmon, a rustic "house" cheese, chanterelle cream cheese, potatoes

and breads. And that was just starters—then came the main course of a triad of moose, deer and reindeer sausages and Swedish meatballs. Dessert was a delightful concoction of ice cream, whipped cream and berries. To top it all off we got the house tour of all the plants, including those grown in Anita's "private" space in the basement and a table of seedlings sprouting away on the kitchen counter. Every available nook was taken up with plants, including a stand of favorite plants in the bedroom.

The next morning, Sven parted from us at the train station as he had a school reunion to attend to—his good cheer was missed. The journey to Ödeshög where this year's show was being held required a transfer to a small local bus that took us out towards the rolling green hills of the Swedish countryside. During the ride, I got a bit of a history lesson from Ingrid, who gave me a run-down of the various feudal lords who ruled the country now known as Sweden and the romantic story of the marriage of the current king, Carl XVI Gustav, to his commoner wife.

We arrived a bit early for the rendezvous with the show hosts at the bus stop in Ödeshög, so we decided to explore. We discovered an advertisement for the show, scheduled for the coming Sunday, taped to the window of one of the four florist's shops in this small community. The ad consisted of a perky picture of Ingrid surrounded by flowering mounds of African violets, taken when she was still involved in the Swedish Saintpaulia Society. Our ride arrived and we were off to see the show site. It was a small commercial greenhouse, complete with a female blacksmith pounding out ironwork and a flock of farmhouse chickens running freely about. Leaving Ingrid to organize the show set-up and entries, the rest of us headed up the hill to our Victorian hotel. Perched on a high ridge of land beside Lake Vättern, it had multiple sitting rooms perfect for a rest, a rousing game of cards, hot chocolate, laughter and stories. We took a stroll around the grounds, looked at 11th-century abbey ruins, and inhaled the heady perfume of adjacent fields of *Primula veris* and *Anemone nemorosa*.



Ingrid Lindskog by the flower show poster outside the florist shop



Cyrene Pintye, co-owner of the greenhouse and flower show host

Some of the awarded show entries –



Streptocarpus 'Bethan'
exhibited by Ingrid Nilsson



Sinningia 'Spellbound'
exhibited by Ingrid Lindskog



Streptocarpella Hybrid
exhibited by Cyrene Pintye



Streptocarpus 'U-hjälpen'
exhibited by Ingrid Nilsson

Chilly mist and a light rain greeted us the next morning when we went down to the greenhouse to begin the judging. We were struck by how the blooming plants appeared to burst into dazzling, vibrant colours whenever the sun would come out. Whether it was seeing the blossoms in sunlight (as opposed to our usual fluorescent lights), the diffraction of light through the mist and glass or the general differences in culture, we weren't sure. The show, with its 67 entries, was deceptively difficult to judge. Whenever a single class predominates, as here with a magnificent showing of hybrid Streptocarpus, point scoring often takes on more significance, especially when comparing more subtle qualities than when judging disparate specimens. As we had a set amount of time to judge—the deadline being a celebration dinner back at the hotel—we eventually had to break our rotating

team of three judges and a clerk into two pairs of judges. The last few plants were scored, with plans to return to the show the next morning to complete our comments. Although the quality of growing was very high, in order to familiarize the local growers with AGGS judging standards, we provided numerous comments. This has been an integral part of our coming across the Atlantic. We were pleased to see that grooming and subtle staking have become the norm, as those were presentation issues identified by the previous judging groups.

In the end, the Sweepstakes winner was Ingrid Nilsson, who brought a vast selection of beautifully grown *Streptocarpus* in the back of her little car. She also won Best in Show with *Streptocarpus 'Bethan'*. Some of the other awards included blue ribbons for a floriferous basket of *Streptocarpella* grown by Cyrene Pintye, for *Saintpulia grotei* displayed in a glass jar by Åsa Tysk, and to *Sinningia 'Spellbound'* that Ingrid Lindskog brought by plane, train, bus, and car all the way from Umeå in a little cardboard box! Vera Hedlund, the grower of award-winning Chiritas in previous years, brought no plants but won a blue ribbon for her photographs of *Chirita* sp. USBRG 98-083. Bertil Möllerström also won a blue ribbon for a comprehensive educational display on potting media.

A special mention must be made for the patient, well-behaved children who attended the show: Åsa Tysk's son, Simon, and daughter, Lisa who got to go for a nature hike nearby with their father, as well as seven-year-old Michael Trondsen, who got Friday off school on condition he give a report on our show. He followed us dutifully around, took pictures, video and even asked us for our autographs. His mother mentioned he was especially fond of my hair, as we both had our bangs swept up dramatically with hair gel!



Sweepstakes winner Ingrid Nilsson with her Best in Show entry of *Streptocarpus 'Bethan'*



Gesneriasterna members at the show in Ödeshög

We wrapped up the evening with a formal dinner at the hotel, the main course being a delicious smoked whitefish, called *sik*, which could be caught from the adjacent lake, Sweden's second-largest but deepest body of water. The awards presentations were especially moving when Ingrid Nilsson and Ingrid Lindskog became tearful over the presentation of the Sweepstakes. Ingrid Nilsson had recently been ill and there was initially some concern over her being able to come at all—what a fitting end to a wonderful event!

The following day was the official opening of the show, with locals and club members streaming into the warm greenhouse all day. It was hectic with plant sales, voting for the public's favorite plant (a pink hybrid *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Petticoats' won) and then breakdown. While we were waiting for the breakdown, Bertil was kind enough to take us visiting judges for a quick drive around the beautiful surroundings of the lake. We looked at wildflowers and then went to a scenic lighthouse directly across from our hotel.

Our final two days in Sweden were spent in Göteborg and began with the anticipated visit to the Göteborg Botanic Garden where last year's group had been impressed with its large collection of Gesneriads and the generous gift of plants from one of the botanists. This year, the head of the greenhouses, Dr. Magnus Neuendorff took us on a private tour of the restricted glasshouses and workrooms. We saw hundreds of small clay pots set into the sand of the growing benches of the alpine house—a myriad of textures, mounds of parti-colored foliage interspersed with glinting, nodding exotic flowers.

Despite his long experience, Magnus still glowed with delight as he showed us various species of gentian-coloured *Corydalis*, a dioecious (having separate male and female individuals) *Clematis* species, as well as some New Zealand natives. The highlight of the private tour was certainly several pots of an unusual alpine intergeneric, *×Jancaemonda vandedekii* (*Jancaea* × *Ramonda*) in full, glorious bloom.

We were allowed cuttings of an unidentified *Dalbergaria* species that had apparently been used as packing material in a shipment of orchids, as

well as an entire pot of an unusual mauve-coloured 19th-century *Kohleria* hybrid labeled 'Lucianii'. (Since returning home though, I have come across evidence which suggests the plant we received is in fact NOT 'Lucianii' as that cultivar should have bright red flowers.)

Alpine enthusiasts would have been awestruck by the variety of plants present in the botanic garden. Besides the *×Jancaemonda* seen in the back glasshouses, the public presentation houses had a blossom-laden *Ramonda serbica* situated in a rocky mound, as well as a newly-planted rock wall made up almost entirely with alpine Gesneriads. The wall had a number of soil pockets running diagonally as well as over various stone outcroppings. Specimen plants such as *×Brigandrea calliantha* 'Tinney's Rose' (*Briggsia muscicola* × *Opithandra primuloides*), as well as assorted specimens of *×Brigandrea calliantha* from another source, were tucked into small crevices and were obviously liking the placement as they were in full bloom. *Opithandra primuloides* was in full bud, while *Corallodiscus flabellatus*, *Ancyclostemon saxatilis* and *A. humilis*, *Petrocosmea kerrii* and *P. flaccida*, *Briggsia muscicola* and *Chirita monantha* were rapidly forming vigorous rosettes of leaves. The cool, humid conditions were obviously to their liking as none had that burned or withered look plants grown in dry North American homes tend to have.



An artistically arranged gesneriad planting
at the botanical garden in Göteborg



Ramonda serbica



×Brigandrea calliantha
'Tinney's Rose'



×Jancaemonda vandedekii

Photos in Sweden courtesy of Vincent Woo and Jeanne Katzenstein.



Vincent taking notes at the rock wall of alpine gesneriads

On a decidedly non-gesneriad note, I must mention my coming across a mature specimen of Easter Island's *Sophora toromiro*, situated in a sunny corner near the two alpine outcroppings. It is exceedingly rare with likely not more than twenty specimens growing in botanic gardens around the world, derived from just three documented wild collections. The last was by Thor Heyerdahl, the great explorer and writer, who collected seed in the 1960's from the last surviving wild *toromiro* tree, just before it was cut down for firewood. Seeing it was a grim reminder of the state of so many of our wild plants, and yet, like many of our gesneriads, survives in cultivation through the dedication of enthusiasts and professionals like ourselves.

We left the garden and shortly thereafter, *Göteborg*, with a sense of satisfaction and also excitement. We had made new friends, been reunited with old ones, and had a chance to see a glorious country full of cultured, friendly people and their plants. We were already looking forward to the reunion of our traveling group at Convention in July and daydreaming about returning to Sweden in two years for *Gesneriasterna*'s tenth anniversary celebration. Perhaps you'd like to join us?

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The History and Biology of *Koellikeria*

(Reprinted with the permission of Dr. Hans Wiehler from the Gesneriad Research Foundation Seminar Series, November 1995)

Establishment of the Genus — *Koellikeria* Regel, 1848. Flora 31:249.
Synonym: *Achimenes* P. Browne, sensu DC., Prodromus 7:536, 1839.

Type Species — *Koellikeria erinoides* (DC.) Mansfeld, in Fedde, Repertorium 38: 28, 1935

Etymology and History — The German-born Dr. Eduard Regel, author of quite a few Gesneriad genera, was from 1842-1855 chief gardener and botanist at the Botanical Garden in Zürich, Switzerland, where he also lectured at the local university and edited his horticultural journal "Gartenflora". Since Zürich was also the hometown of Conrad Gessner (1516-1565) for whom the tropical plant family Gesneriaceae was named (just a few years before, in 1822), Regel decided to name all the Gesneriad genera he proposed in honor of local Swiss nature scientists: *Rechsteineria* after a local preacher and botanist, Herrn Rechsteiner, from Eichberg; *Kohleria* for Herrn Michael Kohler, a lecturer in biology at Zürich college; *Moussonia* for Herrn professor A. Mousson, president of the local nature club. Well, for *Koellikeria* he must have run out of local nature boys, for this small genus is named after Herrn professor Kölliker of Wurzburg, Germany. But Kölliker had produced a checklist of the flora of the vicinity of Zurich.

Why did Regel feel the necessity to erect a series of new genera, among them *Koellikeria*? Remember (from previous lectures) that Regel had gathered at the Zürich Botanical Garden quite a large allotment of Gesneriads, mostly new plants, that had just arrived in Europe from tropical America. There was apparently quite a network between botanical gardens, private collections and private, importing plant nurseries, all over western Europe. All were eager to get new material. And Regel was probably wondering: How are these various Gesneriads related one to another? DeCandolle had labelled the first *Koellikeria* coming from Caracas, Venezuela, to Europe *Achimenes erinoides*, in the Paris herbarium, and in a little entry in his magazine "Prodromus", in 1845. It took other botanists (Mansfeld) until 1935 to connect this DC. name *erinoides* with Regel's *Koellikeria*.

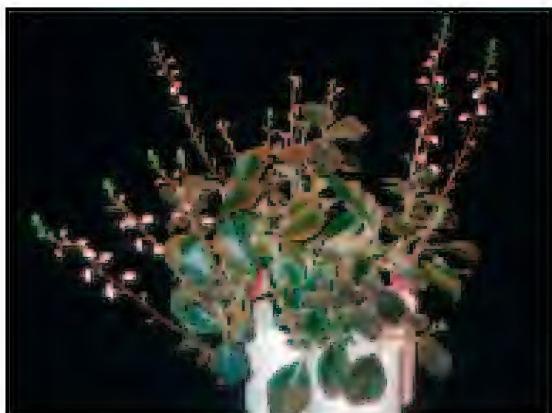
Later in 1845, a new collection of *Koellikeria* from the Santa Marta Mountains in coastal Colombia came to Europe from a collector sent by Kew Gardens. As soon as it flowered, it was sent from the greenhouses to the botany department at Kew. Hooker saw it, decided it was a new species of *Achimenes* and named it, for its distinct silver spots on the leaves, *argyrostigma* (from the Greek, *argyros* = silver, and *stigma* = mark, spot), and had it published and illustrated in the prestigious "Botanical Magazine". A good picture being worth a thousand words, the illustration and the species name *argyrostigma* made this plant known and desired in horticultural and botanical circles. Regel saw the article and illustration of *Achimenes argyrostigma* in the "Botanical Magazine". After growing the plant in the Zürich Botanical Garden, he determined that this plant was not an *Achimenes*. The inflorescence was in the shape of a raceme with the flowers borne alternately which does not happen in *Achimenes*. Also, the flower did not fit into *Achimenes*. Thus he named this so-different plant *Koellikeria*, and published the new combination, *Koellikeria argyrostigma* in his little magazine "Flora" in 1848.



Koellikeria erinoides



Koellikeria erinoides foliage



*Koellikeria
erinoides
'Red Satin'*

*Koellikeria
erinoides
'Judy'*



And the generic name stuck. There were no arguments from other botanists. But then in 1935, the older specific name for this plant, *erinoides* (published by DeCandolle in 1839 under *Achimenes*) was resurrected, and since that time, the name for this plant has been stabilized as we know it in American horticulture: *Koellikeria erinoides* (DC.) Mansfeld.

Koellikeria has remained a monotypic genus: it contains only one species. Karl Fritsch tried to add a second species to the genus in 1914, *K. major*, from a damp and shady place in Bolivia, a giant variety of the original species. But the plant is only 20 cm tall, has leaves 1 cm x 7 cm long, and a corolla 1 cm long. This is just the difference between plants grown in dry, sunny areas and wet, shady spots. It is not a new species, even if it may look different on a herbarium sheet. Two more names were affiliated with *Koellikeria*, but the species did not belong, and were soon turned over to other gesneriad genera: *K. subdimidiata* became *Monopyle subdimidiata*, and *K. mexicana* became a synonym of *Smithiantha cinnabarina*.

Biology — There are two outstanding features about *Koellikeria erinoides*. One is its growth habit. Just like *Smithiantha*, the plant body has a main axis with opposite leaves, but as the main axis turns into the inflorescence, the bracts (= smaller leaves) and flowers are borne in an alternate fashion. In the Gesneriad family, this shifting of leaf position happens only in these two genera. (The reverse situation is true in the genus *Gesneria*: the leaf position is alternate and the inflorescence is opposite.)



Koellikeria erinoides flowers – note variability of flowers and alternate arrangement on raceme

The second outstanding feature about *Koellikeria* is its geographical distribution. It is one of the most widely spread Gesneriad species in the New World tropics: from Mexico through Central America to Colombia, all the way down to Bolivia, and from Colombia east to Venezuela and the Guianas and some places in Brazil (Mato Grosso, Goiaz). We may just take this as a matter of fact. But the big biological question behind this situation is: how does or how did this tiny terrestrial plant get around to all these far places? Who pollinates it? We do not know. Who distributes the seed? We do not know. Wind or water are possible agents. The fruit is a dry capsule, splitting open at maturity. The seeds are just as tiny as many other Gesneriad seeds.

Natural Habitat — It is hard to find *Koellikeria* in Central and South America. In coastal Venezuela I have found it by chance at the edge of a rain-forest, in a sunny, flat area, overgrown with grass, but thriving, in flower and fruit. The altitude was about 1100 m. In the snow-covered Santa Marta mountains in northern Colombia at an altitude of about 1800 m, it grew on soil-covered mountain slopes, some slopes exposed only to morning sun, others only to afternoon sun, some slopes dry and windy and dust-covered (in rain shadow), other slopes damp and dripping. The leaves of *Koellikeria* in the dusty and dry areas were almost leathery, the plants had no flowers, but a few spent seed pods. The plants around the next corner, in sunshine and dampness, were in full flower. Each of these colonies had over 500 plants, and plants in both dry and wet areas had a good supply of underground rhizomes.

Earliest Illustration of *Koellikeria* — 1845: *K. erinoides* (as *Achimenes argyrostigma*) Botanical Magazine 71: pl. 4175

Species — *K. erinoides* (DC.) Mansfeld

Geographical Distribution — from Bolivia to Mexico, from Colombia to Venezuela, the Guianas, and Mato Grosso and Goiaz in central Brazil.



1846 illustration of *Koellikeria erinoides* from *Flore des Serres*

Placement of the Genus — Family Gesneriaceae, subfamily Gesnerioideae, tribe Gloxinieae.

Hybrids with *Koellikeria* — As of this writing (1995), at least two intergeneric hybrid combinations have been made with this monotypic genus. The first one involved *Kohleria spicata* (Kunth) Oersted as the pollen parent. The hybrid was named *×Koellikohleria rosea* Wiehler, and published in *Baileya* 16:29-34, 1968 and in *THE GLOXINIAN* 19(3): 23-26, 1969. The hybrid pollen stainability (hps) was 5-6%, which means practically sterile. Apparently the hybrid is still in limited cultivation.

The second intergeneric hybrid involved the white-flowered *Gloxinia racemosa* (Bentham) Wiehler found by a GRF expedition to Colombia in 1987. The hybrid was produced by Jim Roberts of Baltimore and named *×Glokeria 'Dragonsong'*. A catalogue description states that "tall flower spikes" bear "lavender slipper flowers". Hps. is not yet known. This hybrid is also in cultivation.

Editor's Note:

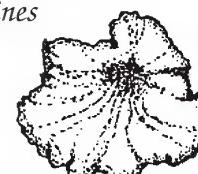
In 1991, John Boggan made his first intergeneric hybrid and named it *×Koellikohleria 'Goblin'*. It was a cross between *Koellikeria erinoides* 'Red Satin' and *Kohleria rugata* (the dwarf form).

×Koellikohleria 'Pink Heaven' was a similar cross John Boggan made years later in the Smithsonian greenhouses, but using the new Breedlove collection of *Kohleria rugata*. Despite the enormous difference in size between the two parents, the cross was successful and resulted in *×K. 'Pink Heaven'* which is larger growing than 'Goblin' but has a better growth habit and is extremely floriferous.

Photos on page 49. See *Crosswords*, Vol. 18, Issue 2 (1994) and Vol. 24, Issue 2 (2000) for more information.

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Growing Koellikerias

Compiled by Peter Shalit <ps83@cornell.edu>
1312 East Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98122-2519

Introduction

Koellikeria erinoides seems to be easy to grow under many different cultural conditions. Most growers agree that it appreciates good light and warmth to do its best, though some have had success under lower light. *K. erinoides* has a dormant period which may last a few months or longer. Under some conditions, dormancy needs to be encouraged by allowing the plant to dry out. Growers either leave the rhizomes in the pot to resprout, or store them in ziplock bags. Here are some reports from individuals who have had success growing *Koellikeria erinoides* under a wide range of conditions:

Under lights, in British Columbia, Canada ...

by Arleen Dewell

Koellikeria erinoides is an affable little plant, a joy to have in my Gesneriad collection, a "must-have" for anyone with limited growing space and warm conditions. It is low growing, never reaching beyond 4" to 6" in height, and produces rhizomes that always seem to be sprouting and thus renewing the growth. It can be confined to a 3" pot or preferably, allowed to wander at will in a larger decorative container. Many find that this plant seems to be happier when growing inside a terrarium, but if you have adequate humidity in your environment, it will grow even more vigorously out in the open.

I find that Koellikerias grow well for me in my warm conditions. I grow them under a two-tube fluorescent fixture at the end of the tubes and/or in the middle of the tubes with the pot rim about 8" to 10" away from the light source. They don't seem fussy about where I put them on the stand. I have grown them on a top shelf for warmth, and prefer to keep them there, although they also do fine on the bottom shelf during the summer here in the Northwest. My soil is 1:1:1 soilless, and I fertilize weekly when the plants are actively growing. I really don't pinch or manipulate them in any way — they seem to take care of themselves and spread easily over the surface of the pot. I do top dress with New Zealand sphagnum moss.

Multiple flower spikes or racemes arise from the leaf axils and extend perhaps 4" or 5" above the plants. The flowers themselves are minuscule, tubular and white with a pinkish upper limb. Be sure to take a whiff the next time your plant blooms. Those flowers may be tiny, but surprisingly they pack a very strong coconut scent!

If you see silvery colored speckles on the leaves of your Koellikerias, don't panic. You are not witnessing the largest foliar mealybug population explosion known to humanity. Closer inspection will prove the silver markings to be actual pigments within the leaf surface itself, not slow moving, creepy-crawly insects. These silver pigments appear whenever plants are basking in adequate amounts of light.

I have grown "standard" *Koellikeria erinoides* and a couple of its newer-to-cultivation varieties, *K. erinoides* 'Judy' and *K. erinoides* 'Red Satin'. The only difference between them that I have noted is that 'Judy' has more of a coppery cast to its foliage, and 'Red Satin' may be a slightly darker green than the original *K. erinoides*. Both varieties still wear lots of

those wonderful silver speckles. I have recently acquired another variety called *K. erinoides* 'Polo Polo'. To date there is nothing dramatically different to report about the way that it grows and, yes, it too has my beloved speckled foliage!

(Mostly) outdoors in Sydney, Australia ...

by Sue Hodges

I have grown this species, not very successfully, for several years, but this year I have been very happy with it. It is growing in a very shallow 5" pot outdoors in a south-easterly aspect (you would need to reverse it for the northern hemisphere) where it gets early morning sun and very bright light for the rest of the day. In mid summer it also gets a little of the very late afternoon sun—it is in direct sun, not under shade cloth, or in a greenhouse.

I use a commercial barkfines mix designed for use in terracotta pots to which I add an equal quantity of my African violet mix (3 peat, 2 vermiculite, 1 perlite). This mix retains more moisture during the hot weather. The commercial mix has some fertilizer in it but I use a general houseplant fertilizer on a regular basis, more or less, and I have used slow-release granules.

My plant has been blooming for ages, and the stems are now about 8" high and still producing more buds. It has lost most of the spotting from the leaves, I think because the light is so high. Usually the caterpillars love the foliage, but I have sprayed with Neem oil this year and the foliage is undamaged.

I do have a plant of *Koellikeria erinoides* 'Polo Polo' indoors under lights. It is a bit leggy as it seems to need more light than the Saintpaulias it is growing near. (I only have two tubes in my light fixtures.) It is coming into bud and the foliage is quite spotted, but it is not as full or as attractive as the plant outdoors. It is grown on a wick, fertilized with African violet food and treated as an African violet in the mix I mentioned above. Under lights I can keep it growing out of season although the buds didn't open for me in the colder weather.

In a Connecticut greenhouse ...

by Judy Becker

I'm growing *K. erinoides*, *K. erinoides* 'Red Satin', and the one the GRF brought back from Colombia, *K. 'Polo Polo'*. Under my warm greenhouse conditions (minimum usually 60°F, maximum summer during a heat wave 95°F), I grow them under about half shade (provided by shade cloth). I once borrowed a light meter and at noon in summer measured close to 3000 foot-candles. My current mix is Metro Mix 360 (with coir) 4-5 parts, plus 1 part supercoarse perlite. Plants are on constant feed with either Peters Peat-Lite 15-16-17 or Peters Excel with Cal Mag. I haven't really noticed much difference, though I tend to use the Excel mostly in summer. For the last few years I have started my stock plants of *K. erinoides* 'Red Satin' in an 8" hanging basket as I am doing up the Achimenes in mid May. They do bloom sooner and longer than the Achimenes. I usually let the plants dry off sometime in October. Other than that, the plants seem to prefer shallower pots or even the market packs where the rhizomes can spread.

In a Tennessee greenhouse ...

by Jonathan Ertelt

I have successfully grown *K. erinoides* in relatively high light — greenhouse, 40% shade cloth, on the bench top (i.e., not in some dark corner or under the benches). I have also very unsuccessfully grown it in low light. I thought it was a relatively low light species, and I tried it in a tall terrarium where the 4 two-foot fluorescent tubes are roughly 28" above the soil line. A

rhizome with a shoot started was planted, the shoot stretched for a bit, then it disappeared. I haven't dug around for rhizome evidence, but I haven't seen any new growth for better than six months either. So my sense is that despite the relative low light in which this plant can grow in nature (from my understanding), this translates to pretty high light for good growth in horticulture.

In New Jersey and in the tropics ...

by Maryjane Evans

I've grown *K. erinoides*, 'Judy', 'Polo Polo', and 'Red Satin'. I like 'Judy' the best because the leaves are darker so the silver-white spots are showier. 'Red Satin' seems to grow larger than the others.

They all grow and bloom for me in the greenhouse and under lights. I grow them somewhat shaded in the greenhouse, but under lights they'll take a lot of light to stay short. They become vines for me if the light is too low. The rhizomes are huge for such a small plant; long and thicker than a pencil.

In the field, we usually find this plant growing in a moist shady location. It forms large colonies. In Bolivia, however, Nagahide Nakayama and I found it growing on a very dry roadside in sun. The plant was so tough that you could rap it with your knuckles.

In a moss-filled terrarium, under lights, in California ...

by Aneita Richardson

I've grown *Koellikeria erinoides* and had it bloom freely in a terrarium. It produced rhizomes on a regular basis. I had the terrarium under cool-white fluorescent lights, which were on for 10 hours per day. The top of the completely closed terrarium was about 9 inches below the lights; the plant was more like 13 inches below the lights. The planting medium was that economical green basket moss that one gets to line baskets. I watered when the moss began to feel dry. I used two or three pellets of Osmocote for fertilizer. When I ran out of Osmocote, I used a very weak solution of MiracleGro 15-30-15, probably an equivalent of 1/16 tsp. per gallon.

Observations on humidity and dormancy ...

by Vincent Parsons

Koellikerias are more forgiving than I expected. I have grown plants in a terrarium and out in a dry room ($\pm 20\%$ relative humidity). The leaves were bigger when enclosed, but I got far more flowers on the more exposed plants even though the light was only slightly reduced for those in glass.

I found it easiest to refresh a terrarium by removing faded plants and replanting rhizomes; otherwise, the plants never re-sprouted where I wanted them. It just looks so much nicer having a bunch of fresh shoots on new stems than old faded leaves and scraggly growth.

I store the rhizomes in ziplock bags with no mix or moss. I wanted to keep them dormant as long as possible, but I have found that even the tightly packed firm rhizomes don't store very well. After two months, there are a lot of dead scales on my rhizomes, and it also looks like the growing point died out on several of them. I'm sure to get growth from those rhizomes, but it will be side shoots rather than tip growth.

Growing a prize-winner ...

by Susan Grose

My *Koellikeria erinoides* won Best Gesneriad in Show at the 1974 AGGS Convention in Long Island. It was a very small single-crown plant. I grew it under a single fluorescent tube in a 2.5-inch pot, in a terrarium I made

myself by gluing panes of glass together. My how times have changed. I expect it would not have won even a blue ribbon these days. This plant is now often grown grouped in a large container with multiple crowns and rhizomes.

This species would probably do well in a crowded container, but the problem is the bloom stalks can get very sprawly when there are so many crowns. This is one advantage of a neat single crown plant. I did carefully stake the bloom stalk of my prize-winning entry.

We grow 'em big, with wicks, in Texas ...

by Dale Martens

I grew extra-large plants of *Koellikeria erinoides* a few years ago. Normally I break rhizomes into thirds or halves, but one season I had gotten particularly large rhizomes. I planted them whole and placed several in a 5-inch pan pot. I added a nylon wick and placed the pot on a reservoir using 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water, which was my usual method. I leached the pots every 8 weeks. The plants got huge, and people asked me how I did it. The only difference from my normal method was not breaking the rhizomes. By the way, the blossom stems were so tall and heavy with blooms that by the time I'd driven my show plant to the location of the show, the stems had toppled. I highly recommend attaching the blossom stems to a stake while in transit to a show.

A rhizome of *K. erinoides* 'Polo Polo' that I gave Carol Schreck grew into a plant with a crest, like a cockscomb. There is a photo on the AGGS Website Members' Corner. I, too, have had this variety produce small crests, perhaps on three plants but certainly not on all of them. I cut them off because they were growing too tall for my plant stand. I just thought they were zillions of flower buds on an especially thickened stem, but I now know from Carol's photo that they were leaves. It would be interesting to know how common this is.

Under less light in Sweden ...

by Ingrid Lindskog

I have tried *K. 'Red Satin'*, '*Judy*' and '*Polo Polo*'. They look completely the same to me. I thought I saw a tiny difference in the flower shape one year, but all the flowers had dropped before I could do a line drawing, and my camera is not good for close-ups. '*Red Satin*' makes plenty of durable rhizomes; the two others do not, so I lost them after two seasons. I have never tried *K. erinoides* itself, after seeing a cover photo on GSN showing plain green leaves. They are adorable when young but quickly turn untidy with all the spent flowers on twisting spikes. I do keep them for the seed though. In my light stand, they keep very compact but the foliage gets bleached, despite only one tube per shelf. They seem to love the cool, all-night, weak light in my east-facing windows.

Under more light, wicked, in Tennessee ...

by Tim Tuttle

I grow *K. erinoides* under four tubes of light after struggling with lanky plants under two tubes. I grow my plants about 6-8" below the tubes, with lights on about 12-14 hours per day.

The rhizomes usually start sprouting for me about February each year, when stored in ziplock bags, and that is my signal to pot them up. I generally place four rhizomes in a 4" pot, one in the center and three around the edge, in a 1:1:1 mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite. I wick the plants and place them on reservoirs, having given up on capillary mats and top-watering. I fertilize continuously with dilute DynaGro and occasional fish emulsion. I leach

heavily every couple of months. Wicking seems to result in the best foliage color and condition for me. I pinch the growths when the first set of leaves have developed in order to get branching.

I have grown 'Judy' and 'Polo Polo' plus a plant labeled 'Chiapas'. The growth habit of all of these varieties seemed pretty similar. I have never noted floral fragrance on my plants, and sometimes I remove the inflorescences if I just want the foliage.

When the plants go dormant, I store the rhizomes in plastic ziplock bags without anything such as vermiculite or sphagnum. When I have tried to use these materials, I found that either the rhizomes rotted, or I had trouble finding them. Rhizomes have done better for me since storing them by themselves in the bags. It also makes them easier to see when they break dormancy. I previously had stored them in their pots, with the soil kept completely dry. However, the next year the pots were too full of plants for my taste, and the plants looked too crowded.

×*Glokeria* in Australia

Sue Hedges <shodges@wr.com.au>
117 Joseph Banks Dr., Kings Langley, Australia 2147

×*Glokeria* 'Dragonsong' is a favorite of mine. It is one I will definitely keep. The flowers are not very large but I find them very pretty and the foliage is an attractive bronze color.

When I went to collect the plants from quarantine after returning home from the AGGS Convention in 1999, it was in bloom and I thought it was so pretty with its spike of lavender flowers. In fact the quarantine officers were rather taken with it too. It had done very well in our mid-winter in the climate controlled glasshouses. Those conditions are Gesneriad heaven, I think, but 'Dragonsong' does well for me outdoors with morning sun or in the shadehouse. I find it needs very bright light to get a strong upright spike of flowers. It is only getting morning sun at the moment and really should go under the shadecloth to get filtered sun all day—it is starting to develop a definite list!

It blooms later than Achimenes, which I would expect as both the Koellikerias and Gloxinias don't really bloom for me until the heat of summer is gone. Perhaps it is the cooler nights rather than day temperatures.

I tend to like plants that are a little different and ×*Glokeria* 'Dragonsong' adds variety to the collection, especially as it grows with the Achimenes, Eucodonias, etc. They are all given the same conditions: outdoors, morning sun or under shadecloth; mix is 50% commercial bark fines mix and 50% 3:2:1: violet mix; watering with the hose which can cause marks on the foliage in very hot weather. This year I did add garden compost to the mix as a bit of an experiment and the plants have responded well with good strong foliage and blooms probably larger than usual. Fertilizer is a variety of African violet and indoor plant foods which I apply every two weeks when I am really organized, and with a small amount of slow release granules for when I'm not.



×Koellikohleria rosea –
the first intergeneric hybrid
with *Koellikeria* created
in 1968 by Hans Wiehler



Close-up of flowers of
×Koellikohleria rosea
(photo by M. Stone)



×Koellikohleria 'Goblin'
created by John Boggan in 1992
(photo by J.Boggan)



×Koellikohleria 'Pink Heaven'
created by John Boggan in 1999
(photo by J.Boggan)

(See page 43 for details on these intergeneric hybrids.)

Awards of Appreciation

Molly Schneider

608 Hillwood Dr., Nashville, TN 37205-1314

A maximum of three Awards of Appreciation certificates are presented each year at the Annual Meeting. Criteria for the selection of recipients include importance of service rendered, length of service, chairing of projects, diligent behind-the-scenes work, faithful contributions of gesneriad articles in publications, and any other accomplishments of merit. Our three recipients this year easily meet the requirements having served AGGS on the international, national and/or local levels for many years.

Virginie F. Elbert of New York City became a member of the Greater New York Chapter of AGGS in the late 1960s and often spoke at chapter meetings with her husband George, now deceased. They were both involved in starting the Metropolitan Chapter of the Indoor Light Gardening Society, and later in the formation of the National Indoor Gardening Society. Virginie, an Art School graduate, changed her profession from editor of children's books in the early 70's when George, a business major, also changed from a trader in produce commodities to full-time writer. In 1974, they published "Plants That Really Bloom Indoors" which included a 30-page section on gesneriads enhanced by their own photographs and Virginie's drawings. In 1976 they published "The Miracle Houseplants", followed in 1984 by a revised, enlarged edition. Their list of published books is extensive including some on cooking as well as gardening. In 1977, The Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded them a bronze medal for body of works to date. Virginie's current goals are to finish writing projects already started. Thank you, Virginie and George, for your gesneriad publications.



Leong Tuck Lock, Virginie Elbert, Mauro Peixoto

Mauro Peixoto of São Paulo, Brazil, has been a member of AGGS for more than 20 years. A graduate in business administration, Mauro started a small nursery at his family's country home where he does everything from collecting, propagating, watering and selling. Loving and cultivating plants since childhood, Mauro started growing gesneriads seriously by 1980. He now grows a little bit of everything and has a fairly large collection of gesneriads, orchids, amaryllis, and passifloras. Many articles have been written by Mauro for THE GLOXINIAN, often related to his goals to keep working for better knowledge of gesneriads and to introduce new species into cultivation as he was "lucky enough" to do with some Sinningias and Nematanthus. For many years he has been a regular contributor to the Seed Fund. He has also guided individuals and groups, like the GRF study trip participants, who are interested in knowing plant habitats in Brazil. Thanks, Mauro, for sharing and spreading gesneriads from Brazil around the world.

Leong Tuck Lock of Ipoh, Malaysia, has been a member of AGGS for over 20 years. A graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Modern History and a diploma in education, he taught in a secondary school for 29 years, then elected early retirement in 1999. His AGGS activities include sending seeds to the Seed Fund and writing articles for THE GLOXINIAN and the GHA newsletter *CrossWords*. He is already working on his goals: to be able to grow Malaysian gesneriads, to hybridize gesneriads, orchids and other plants, to propagate plants via tissue culture, and to promote awareness of conservation of plant species and bio-diversity. Thank you, Tuck Lock, for spreading gesneriads from the other side of the world. Invited to speak at this year's convention, this was Tuck Lock's first time attending an AGGS Convention and his first visit to the U.S.

Past Recipients of Awards of Appreciation

1977 – Paul Arnold	1985 – C. A. Cruikshank	1993 – Stanley Schwartz
Charlotte Rowe	Lee Linett	Margaret Waugespak
1978 – Frances Batcheller	Dr. Laurence E. Skog	1994 – Jeanne Katzenstein
Carol Saylor	1986 – Margaret Belanger	1995 – Mary Bozoian
1979 – Florence Messick	Jimmy Dates	Ben Paternoster
Mel Sater	Isla Montgomery	Monte Watler
Martin Tanner	1987 – Joseph Batcheller	1996 – Celine Chase
Reneé White	Ted Bona	Betty Tapping
1980 – Albert Buell	Ruth Webster	Beth Weissman
Erica Clayberg	1988 – Maryann Delaune	1997 – Maryjane Evans
Emma Lahr	Felicia McCann	Ron Myhr
Ruth & Lyndon Lyon	Dr. Hans Wiehler	Darrell Trout
1981 – Alice Courage	1989 – Judy Becker	1998 – David Turley
Helen Kavanaugh	Anthony Crisafulli	Dave Tyler
Henry Peterson	Jessie Crisafulli	M.J. Tyler
Laura Progebin	1990 – Chris Kunhardt	1999 – Dr. Miriam Denham
1982 – Michael Kartuz	Michael A. Riley	Bonita Hutcheson
1983 – Dr. Robert E. Lee	Nellie Sleeth	Elizabeth Varley
Dr. Margaret H. Stone	Ellen Todd	2000 – Marlene Beam
1984 – S. Cleopatra Kohm	1991 – Earl Deroche	Ingrid Lindskog
David R. Masterson	Molly Schneider	2001 – Jon Dixon
Martin Mines	Alan Wojcik	Elvin McDonald
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Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society fall display and sale at the Friendship Park Conservatory, 395 Algonquin Road, Des Plaines. Saturday and Sunday 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. For information, call 847-298-3500.

November 2-3 — New Jersey —
TriState African Violet Council annual judged show and sale at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Ave., Morristown. Saturday 1:30 to 5:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Jill Fischer <HF.JG.Fischer@worldnet.att.net> (908-464-4417).

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